

its dedication to the highest standards. In addition, as Paul Gosselin, United's Executive Director, noted, "We have achieved accreditation but I believe it can only be a stimulus for continued improvement." This commitment and United Ambulance's "gold standard" will serve the people of the region well. I congratulate the employees of United Ambulance on their achievement, and, on behalf of the people they serve, thank them for their dedication and hard work.

CONGRATULATING AL HEFFERNAN
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor the long and distinguished career of Al Heffernan, on the occasion of his retirement from Ciba Specialty Chemicals Corporation in McIntosh, AL.

During his 20-year tenure at Ciba, Al served as plant manager and executive director of the McIntosh site, the largest manufacturing site globally within Ciba. He also served as director of environment health and safety and director of engineering.

Al began his career in 1973 at the Ethyl Corporation as an engineer and project manager. After 8 years, he moved on to Barnard and Burk Engineers and Constructors, where he worked for 5 years as a division head and chief engineer. In 1986, he accepted his job with Ciba and started as a project engineering superintendent at the St. Gabriel, LA, site. Over the next 20 years, he served as manager of project engineering at the McIntosh site and head of engineering in Europe before returning to McIntosh in 1995.

In addition to his dedication to Ciba, Al has devoted countless hours to civic and industrial activities. He chaired the steering committee and served as the first chairman of the board of Manufacture Alabama. He founded Washington County Economic Development Initiative and serves on the board. Al is past president of the board of directors for The Forum, as well as past chairman, executive committee member, and member of the board of directors for the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce. With an obvious desire to help others, Al serves on the board of WHIL FM91.3, a Mobile public radio station; Partners for Environmental Progress; McIntosh Industrial Park Association; McIntosh Area Betterment Association; and Alabama School of Mathematics and Science Foundation.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. I know his family, his wife, Vickie; their three children, John Mason Heffernan, Lee Ellen Heffernan, and Matthew Evan Heffernan; his many friends; and past and present Ciba employees join me in praising his accomplishments and extending thanks for his service over the years on behalf of the city of McIntosh and Alabama's First Congressional District.

Al will surely enjoy the well deserved time he now has to spend with family and loved

ones. On behalf of a grateful community, I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

THANKING MR. SIDNEY BERGER
FOR HIS COMMITMENT AND
SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF
HOUSTON

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the hard work and commitment that Mr. Sidney Berger has given to my alma mater, the University of Houston, for the past 38 years. As the director of the University of Houston's Drama Department, he has led the department to national acclaim.

From the time he became chairman of the drama department in 1969, to today, the department has grown from a three-person faculty and 30 students to a faculty of 15 and 300 students. This is an admirable accomplishment.

A significant factor that has shaped this growth has been Mr. Berger's central belief that young artists who are developing their talents should have the chance to work with great artists. Inspired by these beliefs, Mr. Berger founded the Houston Shakespeare Festival in 1975 and 3 years later co-founded the Children's Theatre Festival. Before the two programs were formed, there was no professional outlet in which theatre students could polish their skills in the city of Houston. Today, students have the opportunity to work with theatre pros from across the city, as well as guest artists. Mr. Berger leaves a legacy as he steps down as director to teach and head the Shakespeare and children's festivals.

Besides staging one play for each one of these programs each summer, and productions in the University of Houston's four show subscription season, Mr. Berger founded the Shakespeare Theatre Association of America. He teaches a course in "Acting Shakespeare" each semester and has served several years on the board of the International Shakespeare's Globe Center.

Mr. Berger will be greatly missed and thanks to his success, the next director has a steady foundation to build upon. Again, we applaud the efforts of Mr. Berger and wish him well in his future endeavors.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE RESOLUTION

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, between 1915–1923, the Ottoman Empire committed genocide against 1.5 million Armenians. As the first genocide of the 20th century, this crime against humanity has yet to gain full recognition by the United States.

However, for the first time in history, the majority of Congress supports the Armenian Genocide Resolution, House Resolution 106.

While scholars, historians, and the international community acknowledge the geno-

cide, the Turkish government continues to deny this atrocity. Passing House Resolution and recognizing the Armenian genocide will help prevent other nations from being victims of such horrid tragedies.

By acknowledging the events of 1915, Congress will finally recognize the history of an entire nation—a nation whose population was driven out of their homes, massacred, but never forgotten.

The United States owes Armenians recognition of this great crime, and should pass House Resolution 106.

FARM, NUTRITION, AND
BIOENERGY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

The House in committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2419) to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 2419, the Farm, Nutrition, and Bioenergy Act of 2007, better known as the Farm Bill. This measure reflects Rhode Island's priorities: protecting our farmers and surrounding environment and caring for the most vulnerable members of society.

There has been much discussion about reforming the Farm Bill, particularly with regard to how payments are structured to producers of certain commodities like cotton, rice and sugar. H.R. 2419 begins this process by lowering the annual adjusted gross income of farmers eligible for subsidies from \$2.5 million to \$1 million. For farmers making \$500,000 to \$1 million, 67 percent of their income must come from farming or they cannot receive Federal subsidies. This structure will prevent millionaires from receiving farm subsidy benefits, and will also make payments transparent. While I believe we should go further with reform, I look forward to building on this restructuring in future legislation.

This legislation increases funding for important conservation programs for Rhode Island, including the Environmental Quality Incentive Program, the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program, and the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program. I am also pleased that H.R. 2419 includes funding for specialty crops, which will benefit our fruit, vegetable and nursery crop farmers. These farmers, which make up a large percentage of Rhode Island's farming landscape, will now receive equal assistance and access to conservation programs.

H.R. 2419 increases funding for the nutrition title, which includes food stamps and other programs aimed to combat hunger and improve nutrition for children, the elderly and low-income Americans. This bill reauthorizes programs such as the Community Food Projects program, which awards grants to nonprofit groups that establish community food projects targeted to low-income individuals. This measure also increases funding for school nutrition programs for purchasing fruits, vegetables and nuts, and creates more avenues for produce to flow from local farmers to schools.